

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES - KIEV

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9531, (B) MOSCOW 9113

1. SUMMARY - EMBOFF VISITED STATE FOOD STORES AND COLLECTIVE FARM MARKETS IN KIEV JULY 14-19 IN ADDITION TO DUTIES AS MEMBER OF ADVANCE PARTY, CONSULATE GENERAL KIEV. SUPPLIES OF MEAT, ESPECIALLY BEEF, NOT SUBSTANTIAL AND COMPARABLE TO STOCKS OBSERVED IN JUNE (REF A). OTHER FARM PRODUCTS WERE PLENTIFUL. END SUMMARY

2. MEAT SITUATION - TO CHECK AVAILABILITY OF MEAT PRODUCTS, EMBOFF VISITED BESSARABIAN COLLECTIVE MARKET LOCATED IN HEART OF DOWNTOWN SHOPPING DISTRICT AND SEVERAL STATE FOOD STORES IN CITY'S WESTERN REGION, CLOSE TO SVYATOSHYNO AIRFIELD. SAMPLING INDICATED THAT LITTLE CHANGE APPEARED TO HAVE OCCURRED OVER PAST MONTH WITH RESPECT TO AVAILABILITY OF MEAT. BEEF WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY: ON MORNING OF JULY 19, FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY ONE STALL IN BESSARABIAN MARKET OFFERED BEEF (AT 2.90 RUBLES/KILO); TWO STATE STORES IN SVYATOSHYNO DISTRICT HAD SMALL QUANTITIES OF THREE SORTS OF BEEF AT 1.90, 1.50, AND 0.90 RUBLES, RESPECTIVELY. BEEF SOLD IN THESE STORES, HOWEVER, WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT FRESH AND OTHERWISE INFERIOR IN QUALITY. STATE STORES, HOWEVER,

DID NOT SELL PORK OR PORK FAT, BOTH OF WHICH APPEARED IN GOOD QUANTITY AND QUALITY AT COLLECTIVE MARKETS AT PRICES BETWEEN 3 AND 5 RUBLES A KILO. ONLY THE COLLECTIVE MARKETS OFFERED VEAL IN VERY SMALL QUANTITIES AT 2.90 RUBLES/KILO, AND NO MUTTON WAS SEEN. THE BESSARABIAN MARKET ALSO OFFERED THE ONLY CHICKENS - ACTUALLY ROOSTERS - SEEN ON SALE IN KIEV. FISH APPEARED IN LARGE QUANTITIES AT PRICES BETWEEN 0.30 TO 1.40 RUBLES/KILO. REFLECTING APPARENT SHORTAGE OF MEAT, KIEV'S RESTAURANTS CONTINUED FISH DAYS TWICE A WEEK.

3. VEGETABLES AND FRUIT - BOTH STATE STORES AND COLLECTIVE MARKET BOASTED AN ABUNDANCE OF FRESH SEASONAL VEGETABLES AND FRUIT. PRICES, AS NOTED IN JUNE (REF A), REMAINED IN GENERAL SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN FOUND IN MOSCOW MARKETS. PRICE OF POTATOES SHOWED A CHANGE, HOWEVER, UP TO 70/80 KOPECKS PER KILO FROM 40/50 KOPECKS/ KILO A MONTH AGO. BREAD AND DAIRY PRODUCTS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD SUPPLY. MATLOCK

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